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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,155	03/05/2002	Bruce E. Lavigne	100202520-1	9222

7590 08/08/2006

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
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EXAMINER

BLOUNT, STEVEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,155

Applicant(s)

LAVIGNE ET AL.

Examiner

Steven Blount

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 8, 11 - 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,141,348 to Muntz.

Muntz teaches storing a packet in memory 312 (col 4 line 68) and then reading selected fields into a RAM/lookup table 520 (col 7 lines 7+) and using "control field contents" determined in accordance with this process wherein the contents are "perform(ed) to the data packet" (col 7 lines 10+). Although it is not explicitly stated that the multiplexer 320 which is used to select the data bits is used to apply the "perform(ed)" operation, the examiner believes that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized that it would be useful to have it perform the demultiplexing operation of inserting the "looked up" values back into the packet as well in order to save the cost of duplicating and using additional hardware.

With regard to the following claims (hereinafter "cl") note the following: Cl 2: the values in the table are precomputed; Cl 3: packet format is discussed in col 7 lines 1+; Cl 5 – 8, 11: see the above and note that the claimed elements are taught therein; Cl 12 – 14: see the above and note the method steps are taught therein; Cl 15 – 18: see the

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above and note the means clauses are described in relation to the discussion of the apparatus limitations discussed therein.

2. Claims 4 and 9 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,141,348 to Muntz as applied above to claims 1 and 5, and further in view of U.S. patent 6,980,552 to Belz et al.

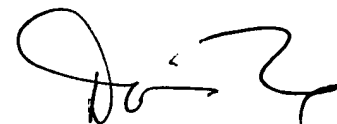
Muntz teaches the invention as described above (see esp. col 1 lines 15+), but does not teach applying it to IP addresses, TTL fields, or checksum field values. Belz et al teach a similar device which performs a similar operation on these fields, as described in col 8 lines 6+, and col 8 lines 55+.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided Muntz with the ability to modify the IP addresses, TTL fields, and checksum field values, in light of the teachings of Belz et al, in order to provide an efficient means for switching and subsequently routing a packet in a data network.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Blount whose telephone number is 571 - 272 - 3071. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Doris To, can be reached on 571 – 272 – 7269 . The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



DORIS H. TO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

SB

7/25/06